

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING ANDREA COHEN

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 14, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable cancer survivor, Mrs. Andrea Cohen.

Mrs. Andrea Cohen is the daughter of Annie Lee Jones. She is a native of Grenada, MS. She is also the wife of Pastor Darien Cohen and the amazing mother of three beautiful children—Deshawn Cohen, Shakeeria Atkins, and D'Ashley Cohen. She has 4 beautiful grandchildren—Laniah, Deshawn Jr. (DJ), Kendall, and Addison.

Mrs. Cohen is a full-time teacher at the Grenada Lower Elementary School. She has been teaching for over 10 years. Mrs. Cohen loves her students dearly and she enjoys teaching them. She goes above and beyond to make sure her students learn the material is being taught to them.

She graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. She then returned to the University of Mississippi and received two master's degrees.

Mrs. Cohen was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2018. She fought through chemo and two years later Mrs. Cohen was cancer free.

Mrs. Cohen is a living testimony, and she does not mind telling other young women what she has gone through and how she fought through her dark times.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Andrea Cohen for being a light that shines even in her dark times.

### RECOGNIZING RUSTIC BUFFALO ARTISAN MARKET AS THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF TONAWANDAS' BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 14, 2022*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor Rustic Buffalo Artisan Market, a local market that was opened during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a dedicated effort to help local artisans and their families who would be affected by COVID safety regulations. It filled the void of craft shows, festivals, and large events to sell handmade items. On November 14, 2020, the Western New York community embraced this venture and waited in line for hours.

Since then, Rustic Buffalo Artisan Market has been actively running among its three buildings with over 120 award-winning curated artisans. In addition, Rustic Buffalo Sip &

Shop events are hosted four times a year to promote their partnerships with local non-for-profits and charities. In just the past two years, Rustic Buffalo has raised over \$117,000 for local charities and not-for-profit organizations.

This idea was borne by necessity; the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted so much of our local economy, and it would have had even more devastating consequences had Rustic Buffalo Artisan Market not been created. I know that I speak for countless Western New Yorkers when I say that its operation saved many careers and livelihoods. Looking forward, the Rustic Buffalo Market looks to expand into new territory, which is sure to be just as successful.

Perhaps most impressive, Rustic Buffalo has one hundred percent retention since their opening. Understandably, they have attained many accolades since their opening in 2020. These include the Best New Business of 2020 (Buffalo Spree), Best Gift Shop (Buffalo News), Best New Business in WNY (Buffalo News), and most recently Best Unique Gift Shop in WNY (Buffalo Spree). Rustic Buffalo leadership is also a contributor to Buffalo Business First New Paper on the importance of retention and the continuous need to look for strategies to grow your business.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize this new staple to the local economy and commend their team who remain dedicated to giving back to our community.

### IN MEMORY OF REVEREND CHARLES MELVIN SHERROD

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 14, 2022*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding man of God, iconic civil rights pioneer, dedicated leader and friend of long-standing, Rev. Charles Melvin Sherrod. Sadly, Rev. Sherrod transitioned from labor to reward on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at the age of 85. He leaves in his wake many heavy hearts among his family, friends, community and across the nation. A homegoing service celebrating his life was held Saturday, October 15, 2022 at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia at 11:00 a.m.

Charles Sherrod was born on January 2, 1937 in rural Surry, Virginia to the late Mr. Raymond Sherrod and Ms. Martha Mae Gibson. After moving with his grandmother and siblings to nearby Petersburg, Charles would go on to become president of his student body at the all-black Peabody High School where he played sports, participated in theatre, and served as school chaplain (Quiros, 2022). Having heard the call to God's ministry at an early age, his strong Christian faith steeled his resolve to challenge the stain of racial segregation in the Jim Crow south and in 1954 at

the age of 17, he participated in a kneel-in at a segregated white church.

Following graduation from high school, Charles attended Virginia Union University in Richmond where he earned a Bachelor's in Sociology and a Master's in Theology. In February 1960, he and 33 other student activists staged a sit-in at the lunch counter of Thalheimer's Department Store in downtown Richmond, were arrested and became known as the "Richmond 34". In April of that year, Sherrod and other students attended a meeting at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina where the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was founded. Sherrod volunteered to be placed anywhere and was sent by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to Albany in Southwest Georgia as SNCC's first field secretary along with Cordell Reagon and Charles Jones.

Working with others in Albany, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he launched a full assault against racial violence and segregation through nonviolent demonstrations and the registration of thousands of disenfranchised Black Americans in the region. Unfortunately, Police Chief Laurie Pritchett, "unlike so many other Southern lawmen, avoided the spectacle of publicly attacking protesters" and just jailed successive waves of them in separate remote locations in surrounding counties until there were no more protesters (Quiros, 2022). The "Albany Movement," as it was called, ended and Dr. King left, but Sherrod persevered with successful Black voter registration. Ultimately, within months the Albany City Commission voted to repeal all segregation laws from its books. Charles Sherrod continued his work in Albany, Americus, Moultrie, and other cities, later changing the focus to school integration.

In 1964, Sherrod left Albany and went to Union Theological Seminary in New York to earn a Master's of Divinity. Meanwhile, he impacted the greater American Civil Rights Movement by recruiting for the 1963 March on Washington and marching for voting rights in Selma on Bloody Sunday. He returned to Albany and brought with him white seminarians to create a moral society where Black and white Americans could live and work together in unity and peace (Quiros, 2022). By 1966 SNCC became more militant, the Black Power Movement emerged and Sherrod broke with SNCC and worked with the Georgia Freedom Project (Quiros, 2022). Also in 1966, Charles Sherrod married Shirley Miller of Baker County and they founded a farming collective, New Communities, which was the largest Black-owned plot in the United States where they worked the land and helped people (Quiros, 2022).

Unfortunately, a severe drought occurred in 1980 and the Sherrods were repeatedly denied help from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the farm was taken by foreclosure (Quiros, 2022). Devastated by the loss of the farm, Charles and Shirley nevertheless continued their work in southwest Georgia. Charles was elected to the Albany City Commission serving 14 years, was a prison chaplain and a professor at Albany State University.

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